

ECONOMIC MERGER OF BRITISH AND U.S. ZONES IN JANUARY

EQUAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

JOINT EXPORT-IMPORT AGENCY TO BE SET UP

WASHINGTON, DEC. 3. THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN ZONES OF GERMANY WILL BE ECONOMICALLY UNIFIED FROM JANUARY, 1947, WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING SELF-SUSTAINING ECONOMY FOR THAT AREA BY THE END OF 1949, THE ANGLO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT ON THE FUSION DISCLOSED TO-DAY.

"The two zones shall be treated as a single area for all economic purposes. Indigenous resources of the area and all the imports into the area, including food, shall be pooled in order to produce a common standard of living," the agreement states.

Britain and the United States have agreed to share the financial responsibility equally and to aim at achieving a unified ration standard of 1,880 calories daily for the normal consumer in both zones. In view of the current world food supply, however, 1,550 calories a day will be maintained.

The agreement establishes a joint export and import agency to take the initial responsibility for foreign trade but which will transfer its functions eventually to a German administrative agency for foreign trade.

The agreement splits German imports into two categories—1, those imports required to prevent disease and unrest, and 2, those imports which will be required if the economic state of the area is to recover to the extent sufficient to achieve self-sustaining economy.

The proceeds of exports will be collected by the joint export and import agency to help defray the cost of imports. The United Kingdom will make available to the agency £7,500,000 in settlement of the understanding reached in 1945 for pooling the proceeds of the exports of the two zones in proportion to the import expenditures which shall be credited to the United States contribution.

The United States will also contribute to the agency an estimated \$3,500,000 which are the accumulated proceeds of exports from the United States zone. Both nations will have over their respective shares of the sums they receive to be used for financial purchases of essential commodities for Germany under the agreement for the liquidation of German assets, reached with Sweden last July.

The costs incurred by the Governments for their two zones before January 1, 1947, and for the area thereafter, shall be recovered from future German exports in the shortest practicable time consistent with the rebuilding of German economy on healthy non-aggressive lines," the agreement continues.

The two nations agreed on the early establishment of the exchange value for the mark, the relaxation of trade barriers, financial reform and exchange on full technical and business communications between Germany and other countries. The agreement stressed: "Normal business channels should be restored as soon as possible."

The agreement also established a joint committee in Washington to obtain from the appropriate authorities the commodities in short supply and to determine the source of this supply. The agreement authorized the joint export-import agency to open bank accounts in any countries where it is operating and added: "Bi-partite finance committees will be authorized to accept payment of balances in either dollars or sterling whichever in the judgment of the joint export-import agency, may be better utilized in financing the essential economic unification of the whole of Germany," and asserted in its concluding paragraph: "It is the intention of the two Governments that this agreement shall govern their mutual arrangements for the economic administration of the area pending agreement for the treatment of Germany as an economic unit or until amended by mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed at yearly intervals."—Reuter.

Beginning Of End Of Economic Troubles In Germany

New York, Dec. 3. "The beginning of the end of our economic troubles as far as Germany is concerned," was the way Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, described the new Anglo-American merger agreement here to-day.

Mr. Bevin, who was addressing a press conference, said: "The agreement is not in any way directed by the dilemma that resulted from the non-fulfillment of the economic clause of the Potsdam Agreement."

This was the clause laying down that Germany, under occupation, should be treated as one economic unit. Mr. Bevin summarized the objectives of the plan as follows:

1. To put an end to the dilemma which had arisen out of rival claims of distressed ex-occupied countries in Germany and the economic necessity of putting order into chaos in Germany itself.
2. To build industry in Germany under such control that it would not be aggressive—which would serve Europe, the rest of the world, and Germany itself.
3. To remove the danger of the standard of living level being permanently below normal for the largest single population in Europe—which it perpetuated might threaten the whole of the Western European living standards.
4. To alleviate the burden on British and American taxpayers by enabling Germany to make adequate exports to pay for her own essential minimum imports.

Mr. Bevin revealed that during the current year, the cost to the British taxpayer of subsidizing the British zone would have been £100,000,000 (Continued on Page 4)

President Lines Ship Leaves For Hongkong

San Francisco, Dec. 4. The American President Lines trans-Pacific passenger liner, General Meigs, which sailed Monday night for Honolulu, Shanghai, Hongkong and Manila, was the first big commercial passenger ship to depart since the maritime strike.

Three-Way Race For Presidency Of France

Paris, Dec. 4. The Communist Party, in an eleventh hour split with the Socialists, nominated veteran Communist Marcel Cachin for President of France's new National Assembly. This indicated a breakdown in Party negotiations for Socialist support in the bid for leadership of the fourth Republic's first Government.

A three-way race for the post was in prospect later in the day with the nomination by the Radical Socialist Party of Alexandre Yve, Vincent Auriol, Socialist, had been the only candidate for the Assembly presidency and it had been understood that the Communists had offered to support him in return for Socialist votes for Communist Maurice Thorez for Premier.

The Socialist National Congress had scheduled a meeting later in the day to decide whether to back Thorez, but members announced that they were unable to commit themselves in advance. The Communists said that the nomination of Cachin was dictated by a lack of prior agreement.

Thorez, Secretary-General of the Communist Party, would take over the leadership from President of the Council Georges Bidault, who resigned with his Ministers last Thursday. Thorez would set up an interim Cabinet to serve until the formation of a permanent government in mid-January.

The Communist bid for Socialist support grew out of the election on November 10. No Party received a majority of the Assembly's 618 seats.—Associated Press.

Stalin's Health Mystery

Istanbul, Dec. 4. Two Istanbul newspapers published reports that Marshal Joseph Stalin is seriously ill.

The political correspondent of Tass, crediting his information to "authoritative reports," said Stalin's illness is so serious that all high-ranking Soviet officials and his closest friends now are near him.

The account said Stalin did not recover from an illness last spring and that his condition was getting more and more serious.

The newspaper, Tasvir quoted political circles at the Bulgarian capital of Sofia as saying Stalin's illness had taken a dangerous course, despite doctors' efforts.

Neither report indicated the nature of the illness.

Prominent persons recently returned from Moscow said secrecy surrounds the question of Stalin's health and that it was interesting that more and more pictures of the Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov, have been appearing in newspapers.

A Moscow dispatch of November 7, which censors delayed for 12 days, said Stalin was in good health on a vacation.—Associated Press.

Communist Plan To Seize North China Revealed

Peiping, Dec. 2. The Chinese Communist Party's overall plan to seize the whole of North China was disclosed in a recent statement by the Communist North-west Political Bureau.

"To overthrow the Government and to establish a China based on Communism," the statement said, "it is necessary to liberate the vast North-west which occupies one-third of China's territory and serves as an area for co-operation between China and two other democracies."

To attain this end, the statement revealed, Communist forces have started a northward drive against Suiyuan. This campaign is designed to crush General Fu Tze-yi's forces now defending the north-west.

When this goal is achieved, the statement further revealed, the third phase of the offensive in the North-west will begin with complete control of the Shensi, Kansu, Ninghsia and Suiyuan frontier areas as its ultimate objective.

Once the Communist positions in the Shensi and Suiyuan frontier areas are consolidated, the Communist sphere of influence will be extended to form a vital base of the Communist regime, the statement concluded.—Central News.

Britain Not To Recommend Gold Price Increase

London, Dec. 3. Mr. Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, rejected a suggestion in the House of Commons to-day that he should recommend the International Monetary Fund to increase the price of gold.

Col. Crosthwaite-Eyre (Cons.) had asked if, under the Bretton Woods Agreement, the possibility of an increase in the price of gold had been provided for and if, in view of the need for such an increase, to meet increased cost of production, he would recommend to the International Monetary Fund that such an increase be made.

Mr. Dalton's reply was: "To the first part I answer 'Yes' and to the second part 'No'."

The Conservative member also referred to the rise in production costs of gold in South Africa which, he said, threatened to make many mines unprofitable. He asked if, in view of the importance to Britain and the Empire of maintaining gold output, he had taken or proposed to take any action with the South African Government to remedy the situation.

Mr. Dalton replied: "This is a matter for the government of the Union and it is not for me to take any action."—Reuter.

LEWIS CONVICTED ON CONTEMPT CHARGES

Washington, Dec. 3. Judge Alan Goldsborough to-day announced that John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers' President, was guilty of contempt of Court for disregarding an order intended to avert the industry-shattering walk-out of 400,000 soft coal miners on November 20.

Lewis completed his defence without offering a word of testimony in rebuttal of the contempt of Court charges.

Before the Court's decision was made known, Lewis said that after his announcement that the contract was ended, the government, "in violation of the anti-injunction act, asked for a restraining order and it was granted without notice and without a hearing."

Lewis denounced "this coercing, all embracing, restraining order," which he was accused of ignoring, and addressing the Court, he declared: "Your injunction, Sir, I respectfully submit, deprives the miners of their constitutional rights of freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly and freedom from involuntary servitude."

"The miners will stand upon these constitutional rights as American citizens. The miners are law-abiding, God-fearing citizens, and only asserted their rights as citizens."

Sentence was deferred till Tuesday, and when Judge Alan Goldsborough decreed that Lewis could go free till then in the custody of his counsel, the American Federation of Labour general counsel, Joseph Padway, protested.

Meanwhile, United States coal reserves have dwindled as thousands more were out of work owing to curtailment of allied industries.

U.S. Opposes Coercive UNO Measures Against Franco Spain

New York, Dec. 4. The United States is opposed to coercive United Nations' measures against Franco Spain which, it contends, would conceivably lead the world into another war.

Instead, the United States presented a five-point summary of its position on the Spanish question, which looked toward a democratic change in Spain wherein it was hoped that Generalissimo Franco would be replaced by a freely elected government.

Senator Connally, United States delegate, emphasized before the Political Committee of the Assembly, that the United States is opposed to Franco but that the United States does not believe that Spain is at present a threat to peace.

On companion proposals by Poland and White Russia for a complete diplomatic and economic break with Spain, Senator Connally said the United States felt such a break would produce no result beyond cutting off the Spanish people from communication with the rest of the world and thus making worse their present condition.

He spoke against a course of action which, he said, would lead to economic and political chaos in Spain, which could not be prevented from degenerating into civil war with serious international complications and which would array different Spanish factions against each other and enlist, in varying degrees, the support of different members of the United Nations.

Norway demanded effective measures against Franco, suggesting that if two-thirds of the United Nations membership affirmed that they would support actively a break in relations, then such a break should be ordered as of February 1.

Associated Press.

France Note To U.S.

Madrid, Dec. 3. Generalissimo Franco to-day sent a note to the United States, deploring the terms of the amendment offered to the United Nations and charging that it offended Spain.—United Press.

Arabs To Send Open, Blunt Note To U.S.

Cairo, Dec. 3. Jamal Hussein, Deputy Chairman of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee, said to-day the Palestine League's delegates to the Arab League were awaiting approval of a recommendation to send an open, blunt note to the United States on the Palestine problem.

He said the Palestine delegates recommended a note to Washington, couched in open, blunt language, warning that American interests throughout the Middle East would be seriously endangered if President Truman and the U.S. Government persisted in their support of the Zionists.

Hussein said the delegates last night unanimously approved the recommendation that the Arab representatives at the United Nations in New York be instructed to submit the note to Washington. He indicated the Arab belief that the British decision to allow 1,000 Jews from these in Cyprus internment camps to enter Palestine would be tantamount to admission that eventually all Cyprus internees would be permitted to enter.—United Press.

MINES EXPLODE UNDER JEEP IN HAIFA

Jerusalem, Dec. 3. Two mines exploded simultaneously under a jeep at Haifa tonight, killing a British soldier and rocking the entire city.—United Press.

SIDKY PASHA ILL

Cairo, Dec. 4. A special United States Army plane arrived in Cairo yesterday morning from Germany with a quantity of the streptomycin, for Sidky Pasha, Egypt's Premier. The C-in-C in the United States zone of Germany sent the streptomycin and an American Army doctor to help Sidky Pasha. The doctor told the Prime Minister that his orders were to remain as long as necessary.

Five doctors have described the Premier's health as "critical."—Associated Press.

Nehru Appeals Against Use Of Violence

London, Dec. 3. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Congress leader and Vice-President of the Indian Provisional Government, in London to-day declared that Indians must resolve whatever the nature of problems they had to face and that their methods and approach should be peaceful and co-operative, even though they might differ from each other.

"We should approach our work in a spirit of co-operation and avoid all incitements to violent methods," he said.

"Unfortunately, we have had a good deal of violence in India recently," declared Pandit Nehru in the course of an exclusive interview. "We are not going to solve any problem that way," he observed, adding: "Violence breeds violence and we move around in a vicious circle."

"We have to face a different situation, not only in India but everywhere," Pandit Nehru said. "This requires an attempt on the part of all of us to co-operate for the tasks ahead, which include not only achievement of the independence of India, but also social changes in order to raise the standard of living of the masses and remove many of the burdens they suffer from."

"These two objects must be common to all Indians, however much they may differ about other matters," added Mr. Nehru.

"There is another subject," he observed. "I am happy to learn that the Joint Committee of the United Nations General Assembly has passed by a majority a resolution which means complete vindication of the cause of Indians in South Africa. This justifies our confidence in the United Nations."

Pandit Nehru said he would like to express his gratitude, particularly to the nations which espoused India's case and made its success possible.

"In particular, I am grateful to France, Mexico, Egypt, the Soviet Union, Ukraine and Poland," he declared. "This decision affects not only India, but the world for it means that the majority of world opinion, as represented in the United Nations, has set its face against discrimination of race or colour."

"This is a vital decision which, if acted upon in future, will remove one of the major causes of international conflict."—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

ENGLAND ALL OUT FOR 141

Brisbane, Dec. 4. Brilliant sunshine dried the wicket sufficiently this morning to allow resumption of the Test, England added only 24 runs to their overnight total of 117 for five, the whole side being dismissed for 141 runs.

Individual scores: Hammond, 32; Yardley, 29; Gibb, 13; Vace, 1 not out; Beder, 0; Wright, 4; extras, 16. Hutton was out first ball of the second innings, leaving Washbrook and Edrich to take 110 runs to three runs for one wicket. Edrich lost his wicket at 13 after he had scored seven runs.—Reuter.

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TO-DAY**QUEEN'S**At 2.30, 5.15,
7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

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**CENTRAL & ALHAMBRA**DAILY AT 2³⁰ 5¹⁵ 7¹⁵ 9¹⁵ P.M.COMMENCING TO-DAY
HIGH-POWERED MYSTERY MELODRAMA!
SUPER-SCREEN EXCITEMENT!**ORIENTAL**FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.30—9.30 P.M.
ACTION-CRASHING! ADVENTURE THAT SMASHES
AT THE VERY HEART OF A NAZI SPY-RING!

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Barbara STANWYCK • Henry FONDA
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NEXT CHANGE: "DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE"**GATHAY** SHOWING TO-DAY At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.MICKY'S NEWEST IS HIS DEST!
MICKY ROONEY • FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW in**A YANK AT ETON**with EDMUND GWENN • IAN HUNTER
An M-G-M Picture**UNO FLOOR SHOW - - - - - By STRUBE****Truman, Bobby-Soxers And Other American Oddities**- by -
JOHN HOLT

writing from New York

I HAVE been at some pains in your behalf to discover the truth about the supposed success of British pictures throughout America and beg to report as follows.

Big British films have scored a remarkable "succes d'estime" and rate high in the lists for snob appeal.

They have had fantastically good Press reviews from critics, wearied by long sight of Miss Rita Hayworth's good intentions. They rate on Broadway just as a good French film rates at the Academy or Curzon in London.

Most successful of all has been "Brief Encounter," which has been running at a little theatre for 30 weeks to steady support.

"Henry V.," although not yet so successful, is the darling of the intelligentsia and should run on indefinitely.

"Cesar and Cleopatra" started with a fine bang on the big drum, but adverse word-of-mouth criticism has steadily been sapping its vigour, and its future is now doubtful.

Surprise hit is a modest affair we call "Western Approaches," known here as "The Raider." In the brittle and sexy garishness of Times-square this little tale of endeavour shines indeed like a good deed.

The question, of course, arises—Is this success earning us any dollars? I'm afraid very few. Costs of distribution and exploitation here are so high that there are only scraps of the honey-pot left for us.

Thus—it is the American custom that all films shall bear their share of the cost of running the whole theatre circuit to which they are booked.

And so many a British film is contributing by its earnings to the running cost of some little theatre in Memphis or Milwaukee which it will probably itself never play.

One group of seven British films, which includes "Colonel Blimp," "Henry V.," and "Cesar," and represents a capital outlay of not less than \$5,000,000, has earned the modest sum of \$50,000 only in dollars.

COMMERCIAL RADIO

THE biggest single phenomenon of this continent, as is well known to the world, is commercial, or sponsored, radio.

The manners and modes of a generation are moulded by the show, chocolate-brown voices of announcers. What you wear, eat and drink, and what you think are inexorably dictated to you day and night by this means.

It seems that I have come in on this vast and succulent ritual at an awkward moment. The great stars of commercial radio have reached a position where one word more of praise for the products that pay them would make their voices crack.

So they are turning backward somersaults to insult their sponsors—presumably working on the principle that you remember an insult longer than you remember a compliment.

Leaders in this new game are the famous Fred Allen and a newcomer called Henry Morgan, but it won't be long before they are all at it.

I tremble to think of the effects to come. Probably before the year is out we shall have the whole American nation going round insulting people just like they do on the "radio."

On a Saturday night I was an honoured guest at a commercial radio show starring that young

Mercury, Danny Kaye. It was an affair of great secrecy and excitement, and I felt it would have been easier for me to get a box for the "diamond horseshoe" on the opening night of the Met.

I was told that Mr. Kaye had just flown in from Chicago, where his share of a fortnight's takings had added up to \$20,500. His little nugget from the night's work to come was to be \$5,000.

WO-HO-DE-OH-DYA-DA-OH

AS soon as the young man appeared on the stage it was plain he was crotchety.

It was quickly explained to me that he is now earning so much money that the Government take it all away from him in taxes.

He feels that his sudden, fierce fame has carried him too swiftly to the point where he is working for nothing, and this is upsetting his digestion.

After the show—of which the audience heard little, for the performers put their mouths to the mikes and did not look at the auditorium—rows and rows of fierce little girls, wearing what they call "Minnie blouses" embroidered with signatures of stars, set up a shrill, insistent cry.

These, they told me quickly, and with more trepidation than pride, were the bobby-soxers.

They held their noise at steam-whistle level until Danny Kaye appeared on the empty stage and promised to sing to them. He began "Minnie the Moocher."

Suddenly, in the middle of the second chorus, the steam-whistle noise began again. "No, no, Danny," the little girls shrieked, "you got it wrong, Danny. It goes wo-ho-de-oh-dya-da-oh."

The star stopped. A frightened look came into his eye. "Wo-ho-de-oh-dya-da-oh," he sang.

"How odd," I thought, "that these little girls should love so fiercely a stranger they probably only saw once on the screen."

"Love? Is it love?" said the man next to me, a great radio writer. "It might be hate, you know."



KAYE...he once played in Hongkong with the Marcus Show.

When Kaye had escaped from the stage, I passed among the bobby-soxers. They have the bodies and clothes of children, and the voices of children.

But their faces are the faces of hard, middle-aged women, and their eyes are the eyes of sour spinsters. They move in little jerks, like marionettes. I moved away profoundly frightened.

THE PRESIDENT

AMERICA went to the polls with a mind made up to register her profound disapproval of an act of fate—the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

This great country is profoundly disturbed and unhappy from lack of

one thing only—a leader. There is a tension and an urgency here greater even than in Britain in the weeks before Winston Churchill took up the leadership in the spring of '40.

People seem determined to do something to rid themselves of a state of indecision and a President they do not trust.

At a news-reel theatre I saw him making a speech. His manner is certainly not impressive, but that would hardly explain the gust of cruel laughter that swept the theatre when he lost his place and looked down at his note to find it again.

And the President has tried so hard to please the people. He has championed the Jews and taken off price controls because he believed that was what people wanted.

But they didn't. They wanted strength, not concessions. The result is that Palestine has at no time been an issue.

The odd thing is that this revolt against a man occurs at a time when there is no obvious rival waiting to move into the White House.

Eagerly, almost frantically, voters are peering into the faces of the rising politicians without discerning the look of greatness they are so hungry for.

Little Tom Dewey is known to desire the White House in 1948, but, although he commands the respect of his followers, the country does not warm to him.

Nor is the idealistic Henry Wallace favoured. People regard him affectionately as something of a crackpot. Indeed, the political scene is empty. There is not even a second in sight.

CANINE POKER PLAYER

AIRLINE hostesses grounded by the strike are filling in their time as baby watchers. The townsmen, which keeps the grass tidy at Flushing Meadows, where the UNO delegates have been meeting, is pulled by a jeep.

Three men and a dog were playing poker. A bystander marvelled at the dog's cleverness. "I don't think he's so smart," said the owner. "Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."

According To Culbertson

(Copyright, 1946, by Ely Culbertson)

The declarer in to-day's deal passed up a finesse that would have been a safety play, and chose another finesse that really hurt when it lost!

South, dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q J 10 9 8

♥ A Q J

♦ A Q J

♣ K 10 7

EAST

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5

♥ K J 10 9 8 7

♦ K J 10 9 8 7

♣ A K Q J

SOUTH

♠ A K J

♥ A K J

♦ A K J

♣ A K J

The bidding:

NORTH

1♠

SOUTH

1♠

2♠

3♠

4♠

5♠

6♠

7♠

8♠

9♠

10♠

11♠

12♠

13♠

14♠

15♠

16♠

17♠

West decided to open a trump—not usually a wise decision against a small slam, but in this case inconsequential. Declarer promptly cashed the ace, queen, jack of trumps, then led a spade to his ace and drew East's last trump, discarding a club from dummy. Now, with a fine disregard of the danger that should have been quite apparent, South cashed the ace and king of hearts, obviously preparing to run the entire suit.

East's showing came out as a shock, and perhaps it rattled South so much that he could not concentrate on ways and means of recovering his position. Actually, if he had cashed the other spade tricks, West would have been highly embarrassed for discards. He had thrown two spades on the diamonds; now he would have to give up a heart or blank the club king, and in either case could be made to yield the fulfilling trick. South, however, chose to discard a club on the heart queen, then to take the club finesse. Down one!

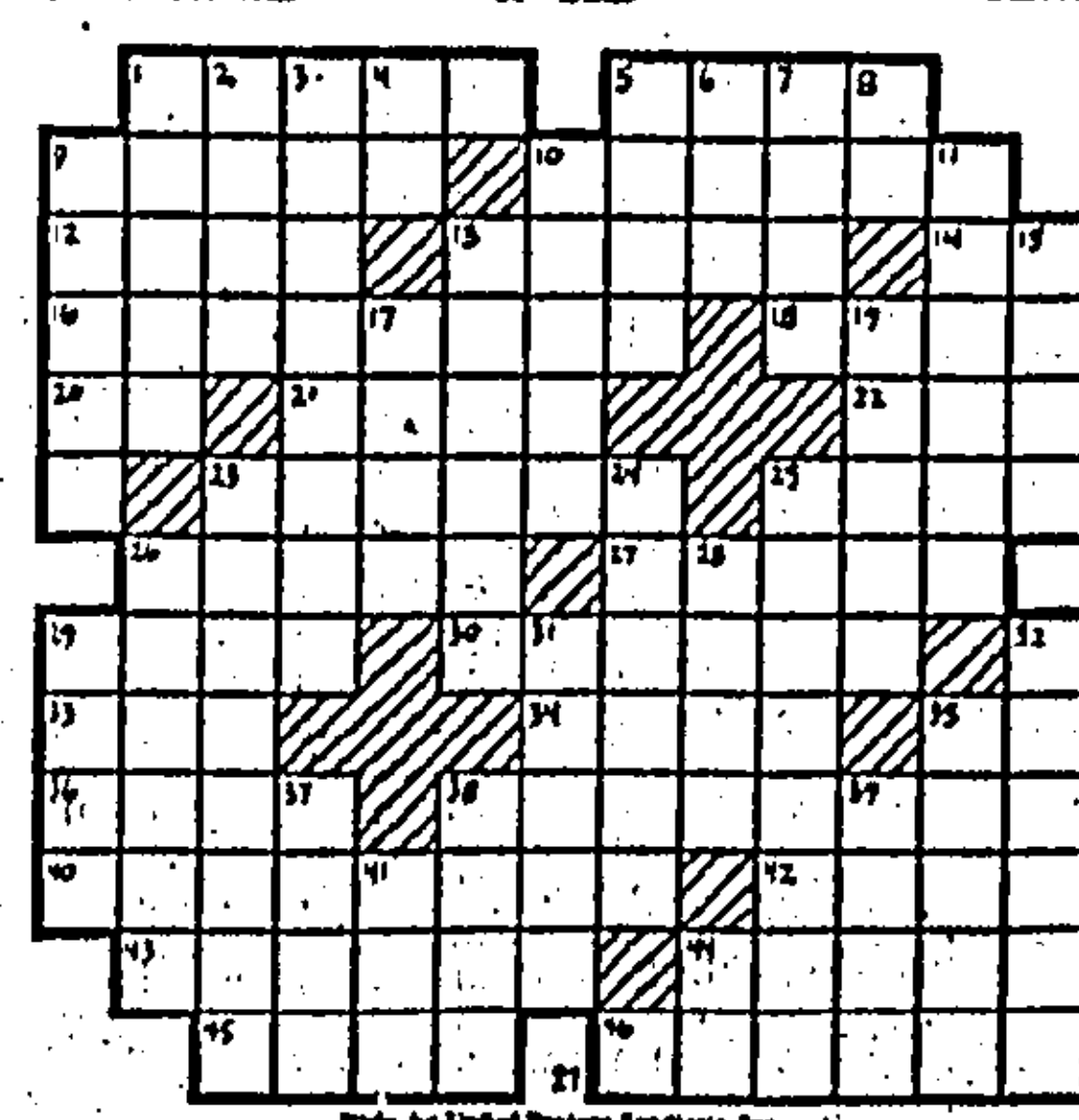
South was something less than discriminating in his choice of finesses! Letting the heart ten ride through West would have been a safety play, whereas the club finesse was an outright gamble.

Needless to say the final contract was sound—as a matter of fact a grand slam required nothing more than the substitution of the heart jack for the heart ten or nine.

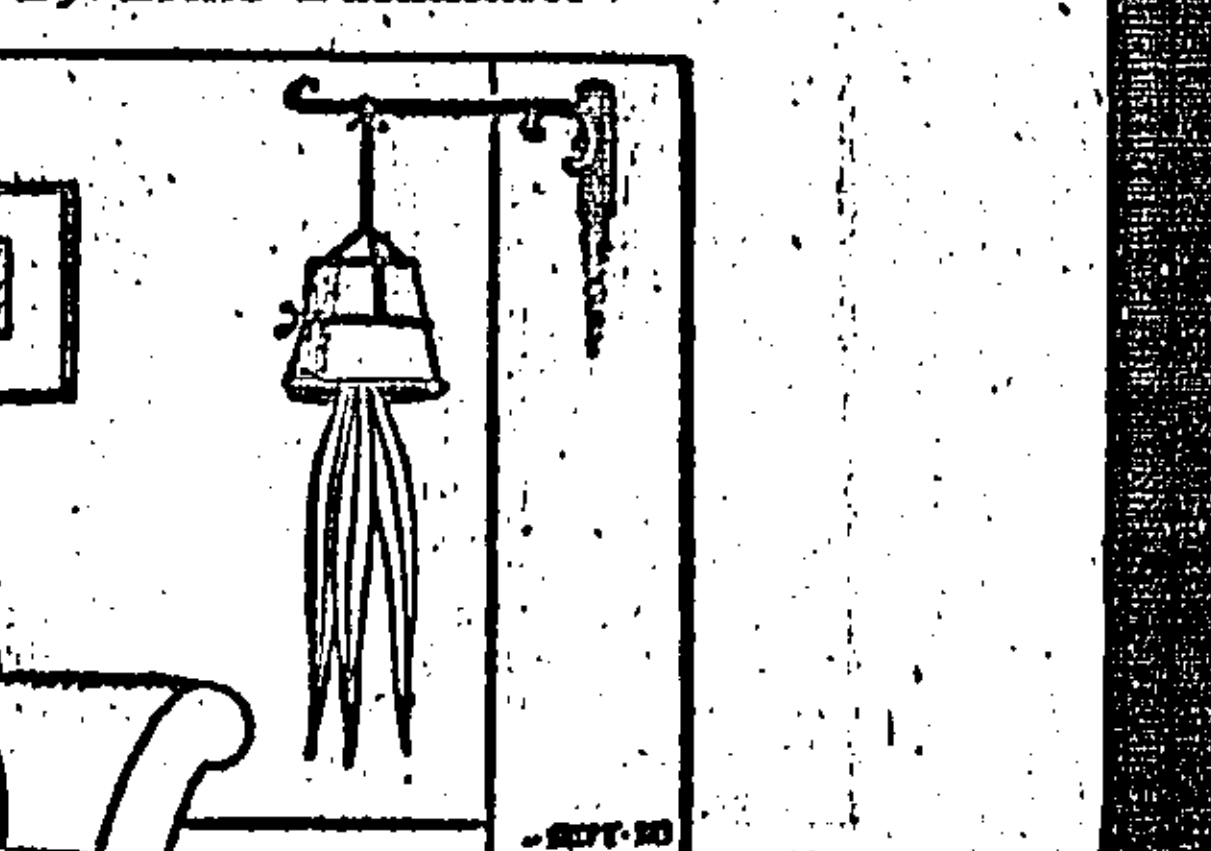
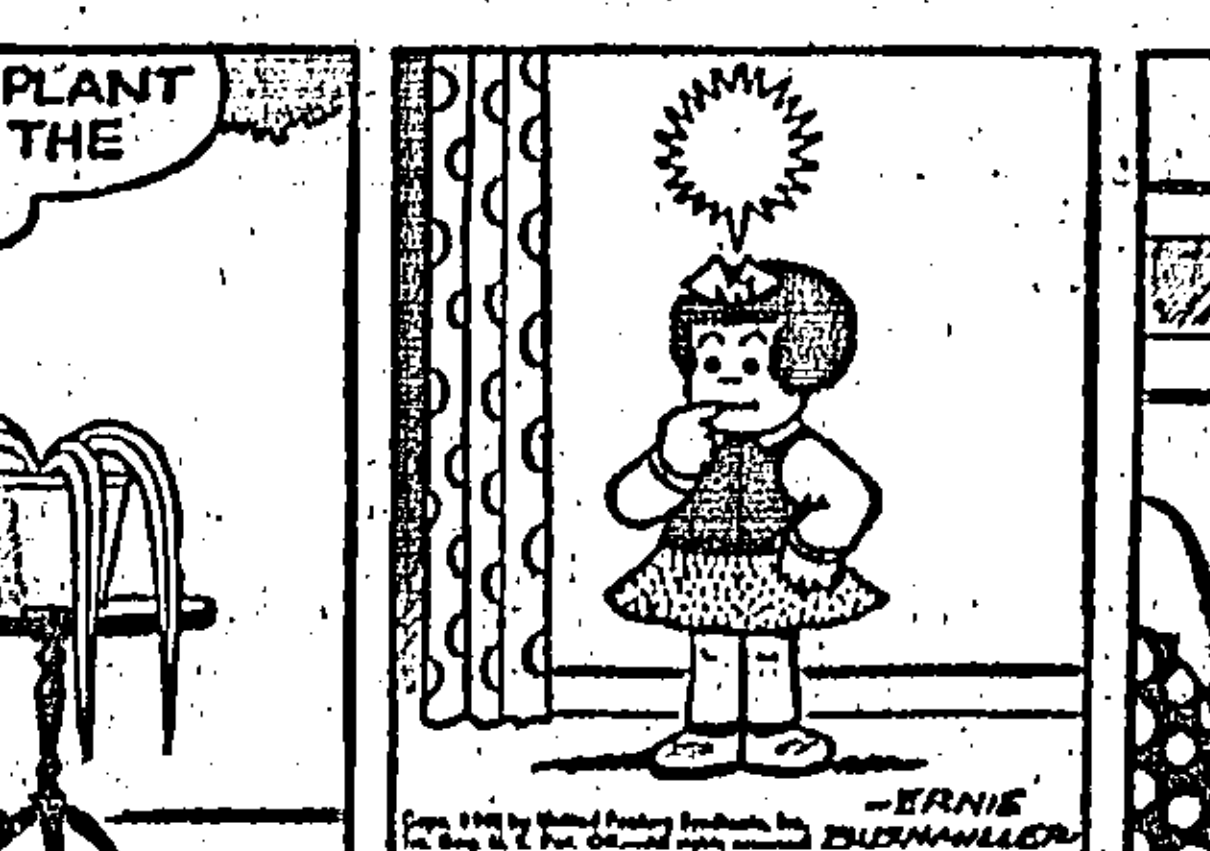
Crossword Puzzle

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES

DOWN	1—Mating ground
2—Dead corner	
3—Edwards	
4—Barrington	
5—Literary collection	
6—Dontine	
7—French conjunction	
8—Means	
9—Great swag	
10—Speaker	
11—Cut in a row	
12—Intersection	
13—Hot air	
14—Social group	
15—Secret	
16—Put in touch	
17—At this	
18—Whetted good	
19—Quarrel	
20—Place	
21—Unfriendly	
22—Maintain	
23—Glow without	
24—Believe	
25—Long suite	
26—Oriental coins	
27—Oriental male	
28—Day of	
29—Tow	



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NANCY Okay From Worm's-Eye View

By Ernie Bushmiller

NANKING BLUEPRINT FOR COUNTRYWIDE RAILWAY NETWORK

Railway transportation across the entire length and breadth of the China mainland—from the remote western wartime capital of Chungking to Shanghai, and from the southern metropolis of Canton to north Manchuria's "Russianized" Harbin—is to be made possible for the first time under a new five-year railway rehabilitation, modernization and expansion plan drawn up by the Ministry of Communications in Nanking, says a Reuter report.

This blueprint lays emphasis on China's undeveloped south-west and north-west, which are rich in natural resources.

Of 34 new lines, aggregating 12,230 kilometres, planned, about 20 will be constructed in Szechuan, Kweichow, Ninghsia, Chinghai and Siliang provinces. Only three short branch railways are provided for the whole of North China and Manchuria.

It is believed that the highest possible priority will be given to the plan, as the few existing lines, "covering only one-eighth of the vast territory of China," are described as "absolutely inadequate to meet the needs of the country."

However, the Ministry of Communications makes it clear that before any new construction can be undertaken it must repair damaged lines.

In this connection, it is revealed that of the 30,205 kilometres of railways in China at present, 7,000 have been damaged by Communists within the past few months. In North China alone, Chinese Red Army units are generally blamed for having caused more damage in this respect than the Japanese—are alleged to have destroyed 147 railway stations, 217 bridges, 140,542 lines, 163,357 sleepers and 74 locomotives.

For the repairing of at least one line, foreign capital is being sought. According to an unconfirmed Chinese press report, the Canton authorities are negotiating with "an American consortium for a big loan" for the purpose.

NANKING BAN ON RICKSHAWS

Following the recent withdrawal of some 2,000 rickshaws from Nanking by drawing lots, the Social Affairs Bureau of that city received a set of regulations just promulgated by the Social Affairs Ministry in Nanking, announcing details for the disposal of these vehicles.

The Ministry's regulations required, first of all, complete data of all rickshaws and pullers to be submitted to the Ministry for inspection. All municipalities in the country shall immediately stop the manufacturing of new rickshaws. At the same time the cities are asked to turn their attention to manufacturing other vehicles and means of transportation.

Efforts should be made to turn unemployed rickshaw men to other lines of work. On the other hand no municipality is allowed to let rickshaw licences among its major receipts.

All parts and accessories of withdrawn rickshaws should be utilised in building pedicabs or bicycles, but they are under no circumstances to be used for repairing or making rickshaws.

CANADA BIRTH RATE UP

Canada's birth rate is on the upswing, with 69,459 live births during the fourth quarter of 1945 compared with 66,064 during the same period in 1944, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported.

Deaths during the quarter totalled 28,543 against 28,583 in the last quarter of 1944. There were 28,476 marriages against 25,099 in the corresponding period of 1944.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I'm taking the pharmacy course—what got me interested in the career is my craving for ice cream!"



Robert Adams, the well-known West Indian actor of stage, screen and radio, who frequently takes part in British Broadcasting Corporation sound and television programmes. Born in British Guiana, Robert Adams passed with honours the necessary examinations and became a schoolmaster in the government's service, but, after winning prizes for singing, he decided to study voice production.

RICE SUPPLY MAY BE NORMAL IN 3 YEARS

In three years' time the Far East will be producing its pre-war supplies of rice, Mr Somerset Butler, chief of the Combined Siam Rice Commission, told the press in Singapore.

"But even that may not be enough," Mr Butler said. "The population of India is increasing by 5,000,000 each year and the minimum amount of rice which these people will need will be 500,000 tons annually."

Asked why Malaya's rice ration was less than India's, Mr Butler said: "If the amount of foodstuffs that the average Indian eats was assessed in calories and compared with the calorie value of a worker's ration in Malaya, there would be very little difference. The ration is worked out on a calorie system which takes into account other foodstuffs which may be available."

A ton of rice in Siam is worth £15, but in Malaya the same rice is worth £22. Mr Butler said: "Isn't that incentive enough for any smuggler? Siam has a long coastline and it is difficult to police. Recently, the Siam Government passed legislation which empowered the authorities to sentence smugglers of rice to life imprisonment and confiscate the ship concerned."

"Pipeline" Supply
Detailing the manner in which rice is collected and shipped, Mr Butler said: "We are given the exportable rice by the Siam Government ex-rice mills in Bangkok. They are scattered all over the place and it is necessary to carry the rice down to a point where it can be transferred to lighters and taken out to seagoing ships. The whole transport takes between seven and 14 days and averages 10 days. Therefore, we have always got this 'pipeline' of rice in transit."

It would be quite possible to send rice from Siam by rail, he said, "but I doubt if half of it would even get to Malaya. The train would pass through areas of great shortage and a great deal of the rice would undoubtedly be looted."

There is plenty of shipping, and it is difficult to transfer large quantities of rice by rail, so shipping would appear to be the most suitable way of getting rice to Malaya."

It would not be possible to bring rice from Burma via the Burma-Siam railway for shipment to Malaya.

Started From Scratch
"In comparing Burma's rice exports with Siam's, it must be remembered that when we went back to Burma in May, 1945, full plans had been made to rehabilitate the rice-growing lands and we got to work right away. There are no such plans made in Siam and we had to start from scratch."

Mr Butler said that there was bound to be a shortfall on Siam's full rice promise of 1,200,000 tons by April next, but the true position would not be known until the new harvest came in December, according to Reuter.

"Siam made two separate rice agreements. The first between Britain and Siam ends in April, and under it the Siamese undertook to supply 1,200,000 tons of rice. The second is the tripartite agreement between the United States, Britain and Siam. That originally terminated in August, but has been extended by two six-monthly periods. If supplies were better by August next the Rice Commission might be dissolved. If not, a fresh agreement would have to be drawn up between the three governments, Mr Butler said."

100 POISONED AT WEDDING

A gay wedding celebration in the tiny village of St. Brigid, 40 miles south-west of Montreal, turned to tragedy when approximately 100 guests were poisoned by contaminated ham which was served at dinner. A nearby hospital reported it accepted 20 of the more serious cases, while other cases were sent to various Montreal hospitals.

One patient was considered in serious enough condition to be administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic church.

SMALLER AMERICAN FAMILIES

The average American family shrank to its smallest size in history during the war, and though returning servicemen are adding to its stature, it probably will never be the same, the Washington Census Bureau reports.

Between 1940 and 1945, the size dropped from an average of 3.75 to 3.14 members. The bureau expects it to level off to about 3.0 by July, 1947, and graduate downward to 2.9 by 1950.

The abrupt decline, in spite of high wartime birth rates, occurred largely because the number of men taken into the armed forces was greater than the natural increase, the bureau said.

In a survey on what happened to the American family between 1940 and V-E Day, 1945, the Bureau also found that the number of farm families was sliced by almost 12 per cent. It was the greatest drop recorded. The Bureau attributed it to the call of the draft and higher pay in war industries.

Although many families were broken up during the war and others doubled up, war marriages raised the total almost 2,500,000 to 37,450,000 in 1945. New families and the off-the-farm movement crowded cities with more than 3,000,000 additional families.

More Women Wear Pants
At the same time, says United Press, close to 3,000,000 more women took over that venerable institution—the pants in the family—when their men went off to war. That brought the total of families headed by women in the home to 8,200,000 over 20 per cent of the total.

However, the Bureau reassured, by now "the number of female heads (of families) has undoubtedly declined and the number of male heads increased correspondingly."

The two-person family remained the most popular, spreading from around 20 to 22 per cent of all families. The percentage of small families—one to four members—increased about 15 per cent and large families—five or more—decreased about 17 per cent.

The Bureau found that nearly 1,000,000 more families were headed by persons 65 years of age and over, bringing a 1945 total of 3,700,000. These increases, the Bureau said, "reflect in part the improved employment opportunities of older people...and in part the greater average length of life as a result of improved health facilities."

Ceylon Tea Trade Not Pessimistic

Colombo, Dec. 3.
Mr Annesley de Silva, Ceylon's trade representative in India, who is now in Colombo for consultations, said in an interview to-day that there was no reason for pessimism as regards the future of Ceylon tea and rubber.

The general impression in India was that tea prices would reach high levels next year when free auctions are resumed, he said, adding, "It is believed in well-informed circles that Ceylon's tea trade is a very powerful bargaining weapon for procurement of her essential supplies, such as food and clothing."

State Agency, Not Gaoi, Proposed for Drunks

A state agency to which local law enforcement agencies may commit habitual drunkards has been proposed by a California legislative committee after investigating city and county goals throughout the state.

The committee report said that overcrowded conditions in many of the jails were due to a great and to an increasing number of habitual drunkards. By taking the habitual drunkards out of the hands of the local authorities, the proposed state department could devote more time and expense to more serious crime detection.

CHILDREN'S FUND

New York, Dec. 2.
Concluding the general debate on the International Children's Emergency Fund, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee's Sub-committee to-day heard the Soviet statement that in view of the almost total lack of immediately available resources, the USSR felt obliged to abstain from participating in the establishment of such fund.

In view of Soviet non-support, the sub-committee adjourned without a final decision.—Central News.

SMUTS SEES TRUMAN

Washington, Dec. 2.
South Africa's Premier, Marshal Jan Smuts, conferred with President Truman and General Eisenhower for more than an hour last night before returning to New York to-day, the White House disclosed. The discussions were described as purely informal and social. During Smuts' stay at the White House he was an official guest of the Government.—Central News.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES FOR SOVIET RUSSIA

S. Kholkhov, president of the Soviet Central Union of Co-operative Societies, said the Government's new decree organising "retailed trade throughout the Soviet Union" would introduce "healthy competition" into the commercial life of the average Russian.

The new programme, permitting co-operative stores to invade communities trading areas which were previously the exclusive preserve of the state commercial stores, is expected to result in an increase of consumer goods, according to United Press.

Kholkhov said the decree would expand co-operative societies and permit them to open retail stores. He said co-operative factories would increase production of consumer goods next year by 2,000,000,000 roubles to a level 50 per cent higher than this year.

He said, "Co-operatives will organise peddling and other trade at market prices but not above the prices established for state commercial trade."

Healthy Competition
He added that this would accentuate the new competition of co-operative stores, which for the first time will invade city and town areas where the commercial stores previously existed alone.

"The absence of healthy competition between state and co-operative trade in the city is hindering development of trade in agricultural products and consumer goods," he said.

"The high priority given the new co-operatives by the government was indicated by the decree, which decreases income taxes, eliminates turnover tax, and prohibits any other government organisation from commandeering their buildings or personnel."

Chinese Pressure On Koreans

Peking, Dec. 2.
High Korean quarters to-day accused the Chinese authorities of bringing pressure to bear on 95,000 Koreans in Nationalist-held Manchuria to accept repatriation whether or not they desired to return to Korea.

Korean quarters charged the Chinese authorities were actually treating Koreans as Japanese subjects and trying to force as many of them as possible to leave China and Manchuria. One reason given for present efforts to speed up the departure of Koreans is that American shipping, which is helping China to complete repatriation, will terminate its job at the end of this month.

Investigation revealed that actual repatriation of Koreans from Nationalist-held Manchuria could not begin until about December 10, so there will not be much time left for the use of American shipping.—United Press.

Control Of Korea
Latter Success, Dec. 2.
Well-informed sources told the United Press that Dr. Syngman Rhee had not the slightest chance of securing United Nations action this session in forcing the withdrawal of occupying troops in Korea.

The United Nations learned that efforts of Miss Louise Yim, representative of the South Korean Democratic Council, during the past six weeks to find a sponsor for the Korean case had been stymied by the United States and Soviet pressure on other nations.—United Press.

CANADIAN FUR ANIMALS

Stockholm, Dec. 2.
The desirability of Sweden's importing pelt and blue foxes from Canada to enrich the country's fur stock, is stressed by two Swedish furriers, Mr Eric Soderstrom and Mr John Ericsson, who are on a stay tour in Canada.

They say that Canada like Sweden has a decreasing demand for long-haired furs.—Reuter.

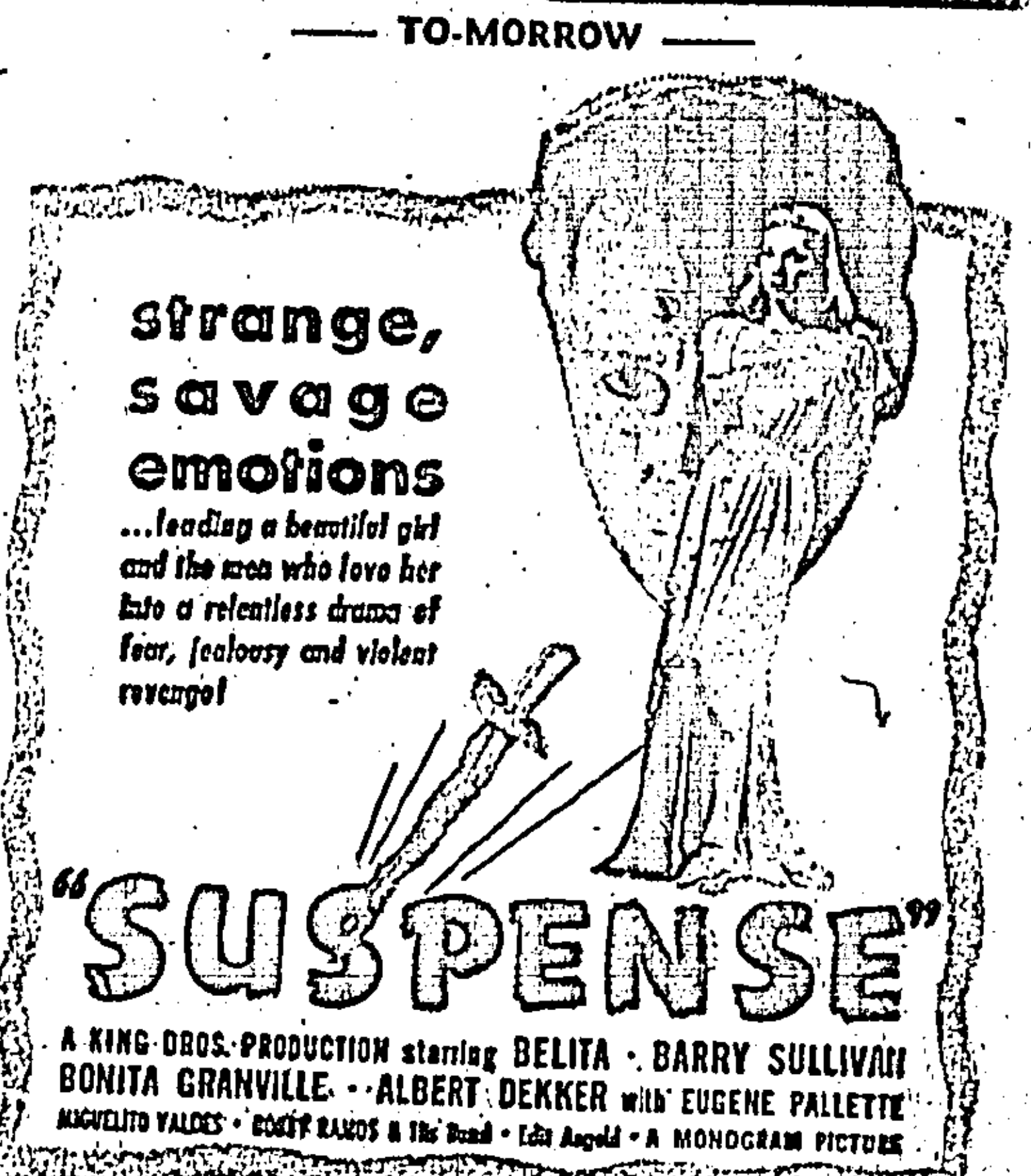
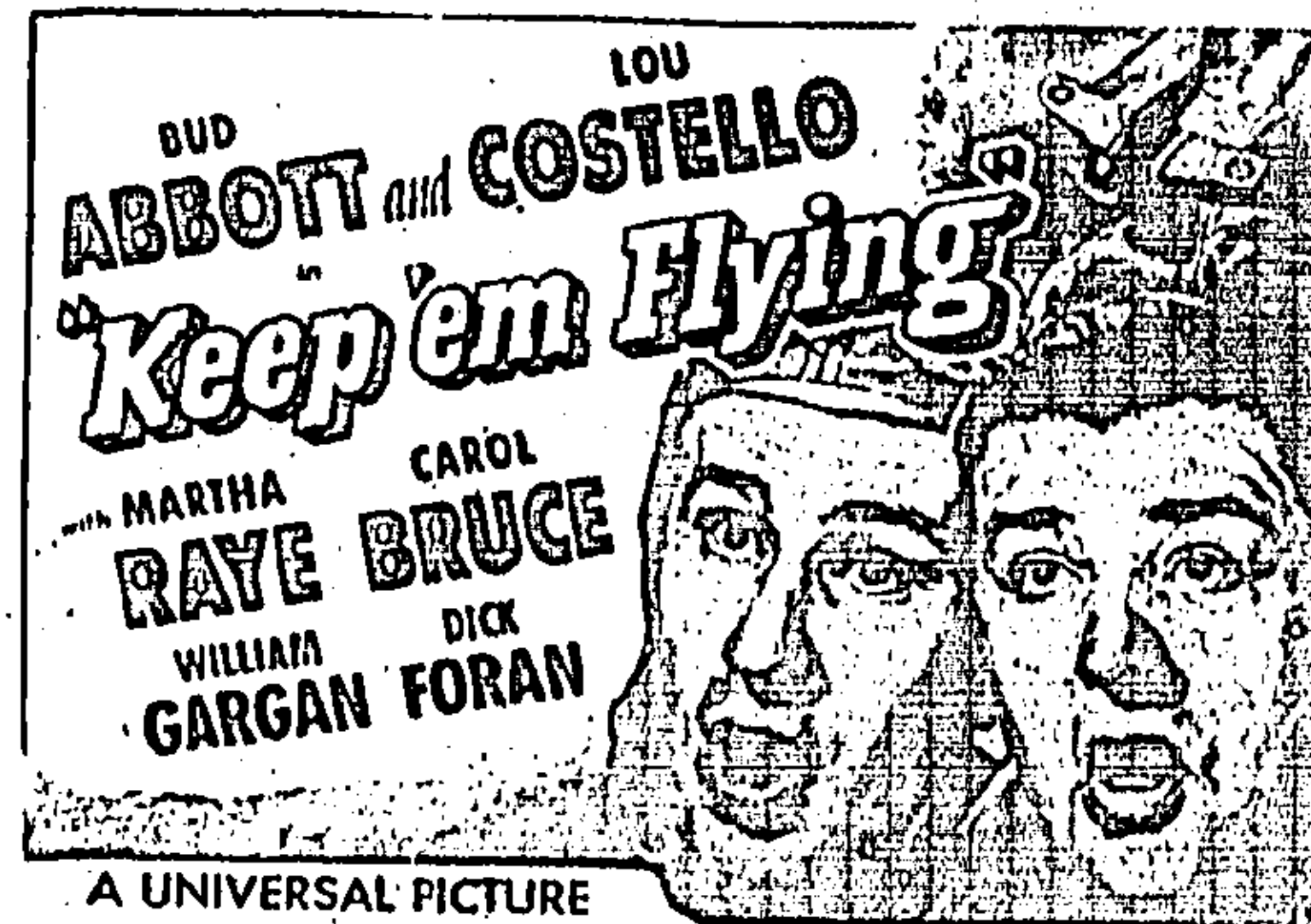
SIAM AND PHILIPPINES

Bangkok, Dec. 3.
The Siamese Government contemplates establishing formal diplomatic relations with the Philippines, it was learned to-day. Preliminary negotiations are now going on between the two Governments, Nai Direk Chaiyapana, the Siamese Foreign Minister, told the House of Representatives.—United Press.

SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT FOR REPARATIONS

Paris, Dec. 2.
Japan and other defeated Axis countries should be required to pay reparations in the form of scientific equipment to war-damaged countries like China for their scientific rehabilitation, according to a Chinese resolution unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Sub-commission of Natural Sciences of the UNESCO general conference this morning.—Central News.

TO-DAY ONLY **KINGS** At 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.



Truth Drug Saves Man Who Forgot

WHEN Private Clarence Paxton, a 30-year-old Canadian soldier, walked out of a court martial at Thursley Camp, Surrey, recently, a free man, he linked up the old story of Rip-van-Winkle with the latest in scientific romance.

He had lost his memory in the Italian campaign and not discovered the war was over until January this year. He was proved to have told the truth by his answers when given the "truth drug" (sodium amytal) in a Canadian military hospital.

Paxton's story, fully confirmed by his own unconscious testimony under the truth drug, was this: On November 12, 1945, he woke up five minutes before his unit left the hill village of Viocchiaturo, sung on his uniform and ran down the street after the convoy. He remembers grabbing the tail-board of a truck and from that moment his conscious mind is blank until January 10, 1946.

The villagers, who knew and liked him, looked after him all those months. When his memory came back he travelled up and down the Adriatic coast—but there were no Canadians in Italy any longer.

SUPPRESSION OF HUKS

Manila, Dec. 3.
The Luzon zone Military Police Command is fighting an estimated 400 to 600 Hukbalaheps near San Mateo municipality in Rizal province, approximately 25 miles east of Manila.

Three companies of MPs are being used in operations. They are employing mortars, machineguns and rifles. The Huk forces were believed by MP officials to be moving southward, east of Manila, from the central Luzon plain, seeking refuge in southern provinces which are only lightly manned by MPs.—United Press.

Principles Of Pearl Harbour Enquiry

Washington, Dec. 2.
On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the Pearl Harbour attack, the United States House of Representatives adopted the 25 principles of the Congressional Pearl Harbour Committee, including the centralisation of authority of the armed forces. The Army and Navy Colleges have been instructed to study the report on Service deficiencies which they submitted to the Pearl Harbour disaster and follow a clear-cut allocation of responsibility in intelligent work. All branches of the Services will supply full information to outposts and keep a close check on whether orders are carried out. The clarity of communications and the restriction of confidential information to a minimum number of officials, and the proper functioning of liaison between the Services.—Central News.

SYNTHETIC PENICILLIN DEVELOPED

Printed and published by Frederick
 Perry Franklin for and on behalf of
 the South China Morning Post Limited,
 at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Vic-
 toria, in the Colony of Hongkong.